

# — THE POINT —

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

Chapter 172

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*The First VVA Chapter in the State of Maryland - The Gold Standard*

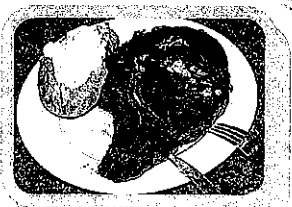
SEPTEMBER 2011

## And it's the change of seasons

Summer for the most part is behind us. And hopefully the insane hot weather will go with it. There's bad news for the home team. Six time Chapter 172 President Bruce W. Whitaker lost his bid for National President at the 15th VVA National Convention August 20th by a mere 92 votes. Then there was that earthquake thing, but I don't think that these two events were related. Although, now we're waiting for a hurricane.

## The Next Big Thing

Saturday, September 17th is the annual adult steak feed at the Mt. Savage Firehall. The festivities will start at 1800 hours. The cost is \$5.00 per person and that includes workers. Volunteers as always are needed, contact Ken Hausman or sign up at the Chapter. There will be plenty of great food and beverages. Several raffles are planned so bring a little extra cash and help with the expenses. Last year we cleared enough to just about pay for the whole event.



## Kudos

Kudo's and well done to Harlan Smith for her outstanding work strong arming some officials to allow the 911 Remembrance Ride to pass through the City of Cumberland. An estimated 2000 motorcycles made the run over about a two hour period. Thousands of area residents came out to wave flags and cheer the riders on and the riders responded in kind. Several organizations and individuals were passing out free flags to those attending. It was one of those warm fuzzy moments albeit not necessarily a quiet one. It showed the world that America hasn't forgotten and never will.



## Pleased

All of the returning delegates to the 15th National Convention that I have talked to have high praise for the convention and its content. All of the first time delegates were impressed just to be around that many Vietnam Vets in one location. There seems to be a feeling that it was done right, along with a renewed spirit of commitment.

## The Railroads and the Military

Just in case you missed it the military has taken up an old practice of the railroad, kind of, that is. If you grew up in Cumberland you may remember how many railroad and street crossings that there were. Back in the old days when railroading was more dangerous than it is today if a worker lost an arm or a leg he was not summarily given a settlement and turned out to pasture to get drunk and die. He was given a job that he could do and a guarantee of employment. At every street crossing and there were dozens of them in Cumberland there was a little shack and when a train approached a street crossing, a person, a live person would come out of the little shack with a red kerosene lantern and stop the automotive traffic. The train would pass and the dude would go back into his little shack and wait for the next train. There was a gentleman, I don't know his name but, he worked the Baltimore Street, B&O crossing for forty years, before he retired. Then technology caught up with this job and it was extinguished.

I know what you're thinking what the hell does this have to do with the military, now here's where I bring it all together. The military has in the recent past started allowing service members to rejoin their units after traumatic amputations, or has allowed them to retrain for a job that they can perform. After their military career is over they can still file for disability. Recently there was a well hyped story about a soldier who was awarded the MOH for grabbing an enemy grenade that was thrown at his position. He grabbed the grenade and threw it saving his men from injury and perhaps death, however the grenade detonated as he

released it and the sergeant lost his right hand. What I just found out last week this was a not a recent event. He was on his fifth tour when this happened and has since completed his sixth tour since the incident using a "robotic hand". This is not just great technology but great news for career military members (I did not say lifers) who are highly trained and highly dedicated to the military, their units and to their country. Somebody finally did something right.

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## Chapter Office News From Barb and Susan

WHAT'S KNEW YOU ASK. Stop by the chapter and check out our front window to see our new Reflections t-shirts; new design, a new color and a new company making them. Also, new in the window is our Reflections Plaques. You can have them personalized; these plaques make a great gift. Don't forget we now have a heat press and transfers that we can put on shirts for you. This seems to be going very well so far. The cold weather is right around the corner. Look for some of our new items at the Steak Feed and buy, buy, buy.



## Words from the Sky Pilot

### "Empty Me"

What a rotten design, I grumbled, as I emptied our paper shredder. I was following good advice about shredding personal documents, but I could not empty the container without spilling strips of confetti all over the carpet! One day as I was gathering trash, I debated whether I'd even bother since it was only half-full. But when I slipped a small plastic bag over the top and flipped it upside down, I was pleased to see that not a bit of paper had fallen on the floor.

The error had been mine. I had been waiting until the container was filled to the brim before emptying it!

When we allow sin to fill up our hearts, it too will overflow into our life. Luke 6:45 says that "an evil man out of evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil." It is "out of the abundance of the heart" that we speak.

What if we were to empty our hearts of the rubbish of sin before it started spilling into our interactions with others? To dispose of our bitterness, stubborn pride, seething anger? (Eph. 4:26-32). First John 1:9 reminds us that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

A paper shredder is designed to be a rubbish receptacle. You and I are not! Search me, O God, and know my heart today; try me, O God, and know my thoughts I pray.

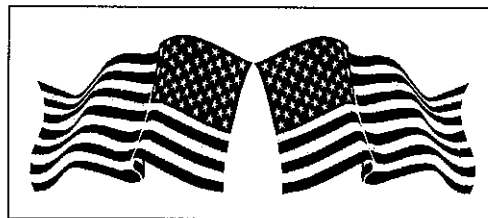
See if there be some wicked way in me; cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

Read Ephesians 4:17-32

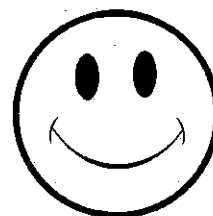
From the Sky Pilot  
Chaplain,  
Rodger Long

P.S. - By appealing to Christ as our model of conduct, Paul admonishes those of us who follow Christ to "renewed in the spirit of your mind." Bible scholar Kenneth Wuest tells us that Christ "personally was the contents of the preaching which they heard." As one Bible teacher proclaims, Christianity is Christ.

**VVA Chapter Members can  
receive a 10% discount on meals  
at Geatz's Restaurant on Paca  
Street. You must show your  
VVA Membership Card.**



**HAPPY  
LABOR  
DAY**



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**Disclaimer**

The newsletter The Point is a monthly publication of chapter 172. The viewpoints or opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the writer and are meant only for informational and entertainment purposes. These opinions do not represent the official policy of VVA National or Chapter 172. All unsigned articles are by the editor; All other submissions will have the contributor's name as a byline.

**Chapter Meetings**

Chapter meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 2000 hours at the Chapter Home 17 North Liberty Street, Cumberland, Maryland. Boards of Directors meetings are the first Thursday beginning at 1800 hours. All members are encouraged to attend both the membership and Board of Directors meetings.



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